[11th August 1956

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMI PADAYATCHI : அது பரிசீலனையில் இருந்துகொண்டிருக்கிறது.

[*Note.*—**An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**]

II.—STATEMENT UNDER RULE 40 *RE* THE HARDSHIP TO PEOPLE OF TANJORE DISTRICT DUE TO RISE IN PRICE OF PADDY AND RICE AND NEED FOR FAIR PRICE SHOPS.

MR. SPEAKER : Sri S. Ramalingam has given notice under Rule 40 of his intention to call the attention of the Hon. Minister for Agriculture to the hardship felt by the people of Tanjore district on account of the increase in the price of paddy and rice and the need to open fair price shops. I call upon Sri S. Ramalingam to speak.

SRI S. RAMALINGAM : கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே. தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லாவில் இப்போது அரிசி, பட்டணம் படி ஒன்று 14 அணு, அல்லது 15 அணுவிற்கு விற்கப்பட்டு வருகிறது. நமது சென்னை ராஜ்யத்தில் தஞ்சை ஜில்லா உபரி ஜில்லாவாக இருந்தாலும் கூட அங்கிருந்து மற்ற ஜில்லாக்களுக்கு அரிசி, நெல் முதலியன ஏற்றுமதியாவதால் இப்போது அங்கு அரிசியின் விலை மிகவும் அதிகமாகியிருக்கிறது. குறிப்பாக நகரப்புறங்களில் இருக்கின்ற தொழிலாளர்களும் ஏழை மக்களும் அரிசியை இந்த அதிக விலைக்கு வாங்கிச் சாப்பிட முடியாமலிருக்கிறார்கள். அது மாத்திரமல்ல. கிராமங்களிலுள்ள விவசாயத் தொழிலாளர்கள், artisans முதலியவர்கள் இந்தக் காலத்தில் அரிசியை வாங்கிச் சாப்பிட்டுத் தான் ஆகவேண்டும். அவர்களும் அதிக விலைகொடுத்து அரிசியை வாங்கிச் சாப்பிட முடியாமல் மிகவும் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். ஆகையால் சர்க்கார் இதை கவனித்து, உடனடியாக நகரப் புறங்களிலும் பெரிய கிராமங்களிலும் நியாய விலைக் கடைகளைத் திறந்து குறைந்த விலையில் அரிசியையும் மற்ற உணவுப் பொருள்களையும் மக்களுக்குக் கிடைக்கும்படி செய்வதற்கு நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கவேண்டும் என்பதை சர்க்கார் கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவர ஆசைப் படுகிறேன்.

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, owing to the heavy demands from the merchants of Travancore-Cochin State and West Coast, the price of rice in Tanjore showed an upward tendency during the recent months. Besides this, the large-scale purchases made by the West Bengal and Saurashtra merchants in the Andhra area during the current year had also its repercussions in the Tanjore market. With a view to check the further increase in price in the Tanjore area and in order to enable the poor consumers to get rice at cheap rates, a conference of mirasdars, millers and merchants of the district was convened by the Collector of Tanjore at the instance of the Commissioner of Civil Supplies on 21st and 22nd of July 1956 at Mayuram and Tiruvarur, respectively. The Commissioner of Civil Supplies also attended the conference and persuaded the mirasdars, millers and merchants to part with 5 per cent of their stocks at a price of about Re. 0–11–0 per Madras measure for sale to consumers at a rate of Re. 0–11–6 to Re. 0–11–9 per Madras measure including sales tax approximating to the Government controlled rate fixed for other districts. With the stocks thus expected to be available, it was proposed to run fair price shops

at the following municipal areas: Tanjore town, Nagapattinam town, Kumbakonam town, Mannargudi town, Mayuram town and Tiruvarur town. For this purpose a reliable merchant will be selected for each area and he will be required to execute an agreement and to furnish a security. He will buy the 5 per cent stocks from the mirasdars, millers and merchants at a rate of Re. 0–11–0 per Madras measure and sell the rice at the rate to be fixed by the Collector approximating to the Government controlled rate of Re. 0–11–6 to Re. 0–11–9 per Madras measure in quantities not exceeding 1 Madras measure per head per day.

The Collector of Tanjore has since reported as follows :—

Mayuram.—Three fair price shops have been opened on 6th August 1956 through co-operative societies and 1 Madras measure of rice per head per day is given at Re. 0–11–6 per Madras measure. Fifteen bags of rice are being sold at each shop per day. The promised quantity is 3,000 bags and it will last for about 70 days.

Kumbakonam.—Four fair price shops have been opened through co-operative stores. Fifteen bags of rice are being sold at each shop per day. One Madras measure of rice is being given to every consumer at Re. 0–11–6. The promised quantity is 2,000 bags and it will last for 33 days.

Tanjore.—Four fair price shops have been opened on 9th August 1956 through co-operative stores. Here also 15 bags are being sold at each shop per day and one Madras measure is being given to every consumer at Re. 0–11–6 per Madras measure. The promised quantity is 2,300 bags and it will last for 38 days.

Nagapattinam.—It has been decided to open four fair price shops through co-operative stores. One thousand eight hundred bags of rice have been promised and they will last for one month.

Mannargudi and Tiruvarur.—The mirasdars and millers in these areas have not so far responded to the appeal made by the authorities by releasing five per cent of their stocks for sale to the public at controlled rates. It will not be proper to send Burma rice to Tanjore for sale to the public. The Collector is making attempts to prevail on them to release stocks. If the response is still not forthcoming, the Government will no doubt take steps to divert a portion of the rice to be obtained by converting the paddy now stored in Tiruchirappalli and Tanjore and make it available for sale in the areas.

The Collector has stated that the price has come down and the prevailing price of rice is Rs. 38 per bag of 2 maunds or Rs. 19 per maund. Arrangements are being made by the Board to send raw rice to the district for sale to consumers through selected retailers.